

Leahy

Rural District of Louth

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

The Year 1955

T. E. WIGGEN AND SON LTD.,
THE PRINTERIES
LOUTH

Rural District of Louth

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

The Year 1955

T. E. WIGGEN AND SON LTD.,
THE PRINTERIES
LOUTH



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29744544>

Rural District of Louth

1955—6

Chairman of the Council :

Councillor F. FOWLER

Vice-Chairman of the Council :

Councillor R. MARTIN

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

Councillor A. E. Davy

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor J. H. V. White

Councillor J. T. Baumber

Councillor C. H. Benton

Councillor F. Coxon

Councillor H. J. Farrow

Councillor R. H. Dixon

Councillor Miss E. H. Farnsworth

Councillor A. Frankum

Councillor F. Fowler

Councillor C. Gillot

Councillor E. E. Luck

Councillor R. Martin

Councillor Mrs. M. J. Horrabin

Councillor H. Plaskitt

Councillor F. Rush

Councillor R. Stephenson

Councillor Mrs. A. Stone

Councillor N. B. Stovin

Councillor Mrs. C. V. Stubbs

Councillor J. W. Stubbs

Councillor G. E. Towler

Councillor D. R. Webb

Councillor R. E. West

To the Chairman and Members of the Louth Rural District Council.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health and environmental circumstances of the district for 1955.

So far as the vital statistics are concerned, the only matter with which the district figure compared unfavourably with that for the country as a whole was the still birth rate, but as mentioned in previous reports, this and the infant death rate tend to show variable swings in a small community. A more reliable assessment of the district still birth rate results from comparing it with the national as an average for the preceding five year period, which shows the favourable relationship of 18.6 to 22.7. The big drop in the district birth rate, though remaining better than the national, was compensated by an exceptionally low death rate, which gave a figure three points below that for the country as a whole.

Analysis of the deaths shows that 75% of the total died after the age of 65 years, with the biggest individual number in the over 80 years group, and as was to be expected, the greatest mortality toll was taken by the diseases associated with old age. Of the infant deaths, five of the seven were due to congenital causes.

The only absentee from the more familiar representatives of the infectious disease table was whooping cough, which could have left few susceptible victims after its ravages in the district during the two previous years. This, coupled with the more widespread immunisation response against the disease, explained its temporary disappearance from the lists. Measles this year affected the northern belt of the district, leaving the area around and South of Louth free owing to the absence of outbreaks in the contiguous urban districts. Measles, more than any other infectious disease, indicates the accustomed travel routes of people living in a large rural district. Of the five notifications due to poliomyelitis, there were no related infection circumstances, apart from the rather unusual case where two children from the same household were affected at the same time. Only one of the victims had residual paralysis.

It is a pleasure to mention the improvement of the immunisation returns for both diphtheria and whooping cough. It would seem the increase was primarily due to the demand for protection against whooping cough, but advantage was taken of the combined form of treatment which included immunisation against diphtheria in the same course. By this means, the injections for the dual protection are reduced from five to three—a very material consideration, especially for parents living in a country district, and the system has the merit that it encourages the prophylaxis against diphtheria at the proper age. It is well to add, however, that this combined form of treatment is in process

of further investigation by the Medical Research Council, and until the results are published one could not advise it as the accepted method of choice.

The services concerned with environmental health—housing, sanitation, water, food and other matters pertaining to community health and well being—were given satisfactory supervision, though it is true to state that the staff is finding it difficult to cope as efficiently as they would wish, with the expanding bulge of duties to which each year adds its quota. This does not refer so much to the natural expansion of the established services as to the heavy load of commitments which new legislative measures have brought in their train in recent years. All these new Regulations have been heartily welcomed as necessary and overdue measures, but one is afraid that the general pressure of work may prejudice the success of their operation unless it is found possible to economise on less essential duties. One immediately thinks of such time consuming matters as “complaints,” which all of us expect to receive attention as urgencies, when they could well, in the majority of cases, await the more favourable opportunity for investigation.

In the environmental field the most outstanding events of the year were the slum clearance arrangements under the Housing (Repairs and Rents) Act 1954 and the preparations relating to the Food Hygiene Regulations, both of which matters were major issues affecting community health and well being. One refrains from making stress of the obvious by commenting on facts too well known, regarding the sad state of low rateable dwellings in the district or about the extent of the problem with which the Council is faced. It is possible to theorise indefinitely on the major issue and on matters likely to arise as by-products, but it will only be in the light of experience a year or so hence that we shall be better able to grapple with the complexities. Meantime, we have to keep in mind the great contribution to healthy living, that will result from the elimination of those moribund structures from the district whatever the difficulties encountered. The Housing Committee deserve congratulations for the speed of planning and proceeding with the building of new houses to meet clearance contingencies. This practical approach supplied a splendid example of co-operation between departments, which made it possible to see an early start in the actual clearance operations. In conjunction with the programme of slum clearance, very valuable work continues to be done towards improving lower category property by grant schemes under the Housing Act, 1949. The success of the year's efforts can be seen in the body of this report.

The Food Hygiene Regulations did not come into operation until 1956, but all the preliminary planning to launch them successfully was carried out. This entailed a much greater

scheme of work than the brief mention of it here suggests, but we were encouraged by this clear cut helpful piece of legislation to make a worthwhile contribution to the campaign for clean and safe food, as a means of reducing the incidence of infection through food channels.

I am pleased to have this opportunity of expressing my thanks to Mr. Shone and his staff, as well as to the Clerk and his department for the helpful support on which I had often to call. I am grateful to Mr. Shone for giving details of the work in his department, which form the basis of the relevant parts of my report. The interest in the work and the encouragement given by the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee assisted all our efforts, and I avail of the privileged occasion to express my gratitude to them.

W. J. KERRIGAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

Louth : September, 1956

LOUTH RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions for the Year 1955.

Public Health Officers :

Medical Officer of Health :

W. J. KERRIGAN, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., L.M., D P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

S. SHONE, A.R. San. I.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector and Asst. Surveyor :

P. CHILDS, A.R. San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

D.St. John FROST, A.R., San.I.

C. WILDING, A.R. San.I.

SECTION A

Social Conditions and General Statistics.

Area of Rural District in Acres	...	...	153,129
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population			18,530
Density of population per acre	...	...	0.12

Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1955 ...	5,516
Rateable Value of Inhabited Houses ...	£35,927
Product of Penny Rate ...	£260

VITAL STATISTICS

(Note—Figures in brackets show corresponding rates for England and Wales).

Births

(a)	LIVE	Total	Male	Female
	Legitimate ...	258	128	130
	Illegitimate ...	10	6	4
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		268	134	134
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
(b)	STILL			
	Legitimate	13	8	5
	Illegitimate	2	1	1
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		15	9	6
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population	14.46	
Standardised birth rate adjusted by comparability factor 1.15)	16.63	(15.0)
Still birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population	0.81	(0.35)
Still birth rate per 1,000 of live and still births	53.00	(23.2)

Deaths	Total	Male	Female
	185	116	69
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	10.0		
Standardised death rate adjusted by comparability factor 0.86	8.6	(11.7)	
Deaths from maternal causes	NIL		

Deaths of Infants under one year :

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	6	4	2
Illegitimate	1	1	—
Death Rate per 1,000 live births	26.1	(24.9)	

Deaths of Infants under one month :—

	Total	Male	Female
	6	4	2

Causes of deaths in children under one year and ages :

	Male	Female
Atelectasus	2 days	
Cholæmia—Congenital atresia of common bile duct and cystic duct	3 months	—
Prematurity	2 hours	—

Intracranial—Hæmorrhage	}	—	15 hours
Breech extraction			
Heart failure due to anæmia due to hæmorrhage from the umbilical cord	}	5 days	—
Oesophagoplasty (operation)			
Dehydration—Oesophageal atresia	}	—	9 days
Icterus gravis neonatorum—			
Rhesus incompatibility	}	16 hours	—

Ages at Death.

Ages in Years	0/1	1/5	5/15	15/25	25/35	35/45	45/55	55/65	65/75	75/80	80+	Total
Deaths	7	1	1	3	2	6	12	14	49	30	60	=185

Deaths from Malignant Tumours.

Ages in Years	Under 40	40/45	45/50	50/55	55/60	60/65	65/70	70/75	75/80	80+	Total
Cases	—	3	—	3	3	3	6	2	9	4	=33

Malignant Tumour Sites.

	Cases	Males	Female
Stomach	6	5	1
Lung, bronchus	3	2	1
Breast	3	—	3
Other sites	21	17	4
	—	—	—
	33	24	9
	—	—	—

Causes of Death

	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	—
2. Tuberculosis—non respiratory ...	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease ...	1	—
4. Measles ...	—	1
5. Malignant neoplasm—Stomach ...	5	1
6. Malignant neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	2	1
7. Malignant neoplasm—Breast ...	—	3
8. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	4
9. Diabetes ...	1	1
10. Vascular Lesions of nervous system	13	13
11. Coronary disease, angina ...	15	8

12.	Hypertension with heart disease	4	1
13.	Other heart disease	14	12
14.	Other circulatory disease	7	4
15.	Pneumonia	3	2
16.	Bronchitis	6	2
17.	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
18.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
19.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1
20.	Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
21.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—
22.	Congenital malformations	1	1
23.	Other defined and ill defined diseases	15	10
24.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	—
25.	All other accidents	3	2
26.	Suicide	2	—
		116	69

SECTION B

Prevalence of and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis notified during 1955, including Service cases.

Disease	Cases Notified	Case rates per 1,000 of estimated population	
Measles	181	9.77	(15.61)
Scarlet Fever	12	0.65	(0.73)
Para-Typhoid	1	0.05	(0.02)
Pneumonia	12	0.65	(0.63)
Erysipelas	3	0.16	(0.1)
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	+ 7.07	+(17.8)
Poliomelitis (Paralytic)	1	0.05	(0.08)
„ Non Paralytic	4	0.21	(0.06)
Total	216	+ per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	

In the absence of any outbreaks of measles cases the previous year, the appearance of the disease in various parts of the district was not unexpected. The infection continued over the first ten months of the year with its peak in midsummer to affect mainly the villages in the north and north east of the district. There was one death from the disease. For the opposite reason whooping cough visitations were unlikely, and in fact were complete absentees. The scarlet fever cases were spread over the year as a mild infection in single or double appearances in the parishes involved. Fortunately, all but one of the five victims of poliomy-

yelitis had mildish infections, without any resulting paralysis. The affected were all children except a service case, and two children were from the same household. For the third successive year, the list has included paratyphoid, represented this year by a single case, as well as being the only member of the family affected, and the origin defied every sleuthing effort.

Prophylaxis against Infectious Diseases.

I am indebted to Dr. C. D. Cormac, the County Medical Officer of Health, for supplying me with the following details showing the numbers immunised during the year against diphtheria and whooping cough and the vaccinations against small pox.

(a) Diphtheria Immunisation.

Under 5 Years	5-14 years	Booster Doses
35	61	207

(b) Whooping Cough (under five years).

Under One	One	Two	Three	Four	Total
2	3	3	2	1	11

(c) Combined Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisations (Under five years)

Under one	One	Two	Three	Four	Total
91	69	14	9	4	187

(d) Anti Smallpox.

Ages in years	0/1	1/4	5/14	15 +	Total
(a) Primary Vaccinations	75	13	3	14	105
(b) Re-vaccinations	—	—	2	12	14

On setting out the above details in simple fashion, to compare them with the figures of the previous year, shown in brackets, the position is as follows:—

Diphtheria Immunisations :—

(a) Under 5 years	222 (174)
(b) 5—14 years	61 (76)
(c) Booster treatments	207 (209)
Whooping Cough Immunisations	198 (58)

Small Pox :—

Primary Vaccinations	105 (97)
Re-vaccinations	14 (22)

Remarks.

Diphtheria.

The improvement on the immunised numbers in the all important under five year group is to be noted, which represents by a simple yardstick 72% of the district births of the previous year surviving to the age of a year, compared with 58% by similar measurement the previous year. The booster treatments maintained the level of the previous year, and even if the primary treatments for the over five year group were fewer, ideally they should be nil, because all the primary immunisations should be done in babyhood. One is glad to observe the number of combined treatments carried out, by which the antigens for diphtheria and whooping cough are contained in the same injection, thus reducing the number of injections for the dual protection from five to three. In a large rural district, where families often live at inconvenient distances from centres of treatment, this is a most important consideration, which has the added advantage of securing treatment against both diseases at the optimum time.

It is very satisfactory also to record the marked increase in the numbers availing of prophylactic measures against whooping cough. This is a disease which supplies its own propaganda for seeking protection against, and the experience of the outbreaks of the previous two years, with the invalidism produced, probably supplied the necessary spur, which is reflected in the year's results.

Tuberculosis: New Cases and Mortality during 1955

Age period (years)			New Cases				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...						
1	...	...						
5	...	...		3						
15	...	...			1					
25	...	...						
35	...	...	1							
45	...	...					1			
55	...	...						
65+	...	...						
Totals			1	3	1	—	1	—	—	—

We can see the year's casualties under this head, of four pulmonary and one non-pulmonary new cases, with one death, in better perspective when they are compared with the averages of the figures for the preceding five years, which showed 6.4, 3.6. and 3.0 respectively. Several factors, no doubt, shared in this betterment, but we can be sure that the improved housing conditions in the district and the result of efforts to provide a safe (tubercle free) milk supply have been major contributions. Knowing the unhealthy relationship that has always existed between bad housing and tuberculosis, one may not be unduly optimistic in thinking that the Council's efforts in the post-war period to raise the housing standards are already bearing fruit. This should provide a stimulus to make the response worthy of the opportunity which the Council now have under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, to clear the unfortunate legacy of derelict and unhealthy dwellings that are so much a blot on the district.

As the majority of the cases of tuberculosis of non-pulmonary origin are caused by drinking raw milk infected with tubercle, the preventive measures are more obvious than the means of solution are immediately easy, but under the appropriate heading can be seen the efforts being made to reduce the dangers of infection through the milk supply.

SECTION C

General Provisions of Health Services in the Area Laboratory Facilities.

The extent of the indebtedness to the Public Health Service is brought home in full force at the end of each year, when we estimate the number of samples and specimens sent there for examination in connection with the successful running of the relevant services of the Council. Water samples from the many supplies, public and private, require routine examination to rule out the ever present possibility of pollution, and the only means of checking the hygienic standard of milk and ice cream relies on the results of accepted tests, just as other standard tests are necessary to determine the presence or absence of certain disease organisms in milk. As well, the laboratory dealt with the various specimens sent which were concerned with the investigation of infectious diseases.

All these samples and specimens, totalling 728, were dealt with by the Public Health Laboratory at Lincoln, in charge of Dr. J. M. Croll, to whom I wish to record, on behalf of our department, the appreciation felt for the unstinted assistance and courteous co-operation given us during the year.

Only a small number of samples pertaining to water and sewage effluents required to be sent to outside agencies for chemical analysis at fee rate charges.

Clinics and Welfare Centres.

In addition to the main County Council clinic services in the contiguous towns of the district the following centres operated as shown. On the days of the Doctor's attendance, vaccination and immunisation of infants were part of the routine duties.

Centre	Date and Time	Doctor attends
Binbrook	Weekly, Tuesday 2-30—4-30 p.m.	1st and 3rd Tuesdays
North Somercotes	Weekly, Friday 10 a.m.—12 (noon)	1st and 3rd Fridays
Tetney	2nd & 4th Fridays 2—4 p.m.	2nd Friday
Holton-le-Clay	2nd & 4th. Wednesdays 10 a.m.—12 (noon)	2nd & 4th Wednesdays
Manby	1st & 3rd. Thursdays 10 a.m.—12 (noon)	1st & 3rd Thursdays

The County Council sponsored other personal health services, including the provision of District Nurses, Health Visitors, Home Helps and School Medical and Dental services for the district.

Section 47. National Assistance Act 1948

Under the particular section of the above Act, the Council, on a certificate from their medical Officer, can apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an order to effect the removal of certain classes of persons, who are in need of care and attention, to suitable institutions. Fortunately, it was not found necessary to have recourse to this unpleasant form of action in any of the five cases reported to me during the year for attention, as they were persuaded to go voluntarily into the institutions.

SECTION D.

Environmental Health Services in the Area

(a) Water Supply.

Mr. Shone, Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor to the Council reported as follows about the progress of extension supplies.

“Mains supply was completed in the villages of North and South Somercotes, North and South Reston, Gayton-le-Marsh, Withern, Strubby, Thoresthorpe and Stenigot. Of our 79 Parishes, water is now available in 59, and only the control of capital investments by the Central Government is slowing down our progress, There are 3,165 households

with house connexions to the Council mains and 26 are supplied by means of standpipes.

The contract for the laying of trunk mains to Stenigot and Horncastle R.D.C. was 50% completed in 1955. This is closely bound up with the development of the Louth Borough Raithby source and cannot become operative until pumps are installed and the permanent 1,000,000 gallon reservoir at Stenigot is completed."

Bacteriological examination of the public supplies received the usual attention, and out of 317 samples taken, only three were unsatisfactory with six doubtful. The village piped supplies, under private control, demanded the usual assiduous attention. The Hainton supply was 100% efficient, but over 40% of the samples from the Withcall supply and 30% from the Welton source were unsatisfactory, due to chlorination defects or inattention to the procedure. There were 126 samples submitted from these supplies. Some 70 samples were taken from various private sources, either at request or to demonstrate the need for connecting to the public mains when the household pump or bore was suspect.

Chemical analysis was done at six monthly intervals of the public supplies at Binbrook, Grimoldby, Fulstow and Raithby, and regular reports were received from the Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Water Board about the supply taken from there. All of these showed no abnormal content except the water from the Raithby bore which was so heavily charged with brown oxide of iron as to render it, at times, practically unsuitable for domestic use. It was little consolation for consumers on the circuit to know the water was sterile and the deposit was quite harmless.

(b) **Drainage and Sewerage.**

The Chief Sanitary Inspector gave details about the following matters:—

Closets.

Number of conversions to water carriage system	184
Number of houses with privy vaults at end of year	748
Number of houses with pail closets at end of year	2500
Number of houses with water closets at end of year	2597

Cesspools and Septic Tanks.

Number of septic tanks emptied during the year	226
Number abolished	15

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works.

During the year, the first phase of the scheme affecting the villages of North Thoresby, Holton-le-Clay and Tetney was completed and brought into operation; but owing to restriction on capital expenditure, consent was not yet forthcoming to proceed with the further stages of this development. Sewerage schemes were prepared for the villages of North Cotes and Marshchapel in anticipation of the time when the resumption of such work would be permitted, and a Ministerial inquiry was held into the proposals for sewerage North Somercotes, which resulted in approval in principle being given for a modified scheme of sewerage, with permission to acquire and renovate the existing sewage disposal works at Donna Nook, formerly used by the Ministry of Works.

No extensions or major alterations were carried out at any of the disposal works, though the question of extensions at the Binbrook works was under consideration. The new works at North Thoresby, Holton-le-Clay and Tetney were in operation and an attendant was appointed to look after the routine maintenance work.

Six chemical analyses of sewage effluents, taken at six monthly intervals, from the works at Binbrook. Manby and Ludford were reported satisfactory.

(c) Refuse Collection.

No new parishes were added to the collection round, but the servicing of the R.A.F. Station at Strubby was undertaken during the year by contract, in addition to the existing collection at Manby R.A.F. Flying College. The 69 parishes on the collection schedule received fortnightly house to house attention except two Theddlethorpe parishes, which the surveyor hoped to bring into line by discontinuing the point system obtaining. In all, refuse was collected from 4,015 premises. The disposal of the refuse was effected by controlled tipping, which inevitably gave rise to the problem of finding suitable sites in cases where the existing space had become exhausted.

(d) Rat and Mice destruction.

As pointed out in previous reports, this is one of the measures concerned with the prevention of infectious diseases, and as such has an importance greater than was given it in the past. It so happens that the rodent and the human share much the same taste in foodstuffs and one always likes to think, apart from the health risk involved, that our food has not been already sampled by the rat or mouse. It is desirable, therefore, that no effort should be spared to control these dangerous pests by systematic surveys, and clearing out any reservoirs of infestation found.

The Council's rodent operator reported that he surveyed 700 premises and sites of various kinds, in the course of which he treated 170 dwellings, 15 business premises and 60 other types of buildings and places. This included five block treatments in villages and attention to sewers and refuse tips. As the result of treatment, the estimated rodent casualty roll for the year was about 22,000. It would seem that the number of business premises treated was small, but it was explained that the owners in many cases undertook the clearance themselves or by other agencies, and the results were checked by the operative at a later period. One would like to think that surveys of food shops and slaughterhouses formed an important part of the working routine. Seemingly, the mouse was a rarity in the district or its presence regarded with indifference, if we were to judge by the fact that the operative had not to deal with any cases of infestation from that cause, except in a couple of school canteens.

Reports on other miscellaneous work.

(1) Disinfections and Disinfestations of premises.

(a)	In connexion with infectious disease	...	3
(b)	Disinfestations	... ..	4

(2) Knackers. Yards.

25 inspections were made in respect of the five premises licenced, in the course of which seven contraventions were found and remedied.

Nuisances.

Total number of nuisances during the year :—

(a)	Abated as result of informal action by sanitary inspector	... ..	125
(b)	Reported to Council :		
	(1) Statutory Notice issued	... ..	2
	(2) Statutory Notice not issued	...	Nil

(4) Shops Act, 1950.

This deals with the sanitary and health provisions affecting the staff in shops. It was reported that 104 shops were visited in this connexion and in six cases improvements were carried out.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

(5) Particulars of the information required by the Ministry of Labour and National Service, under Section 128 (3) of the Factories Act, 1937, are given in the following table.

1. Inspections.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	9	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	64	69	Nil	Nil
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	70	78	Nil	Nil

1. Defects found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to/by H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	3	3	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences :			
(a) Insufficient	1	1	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	
Totals	6	6	Nil

3. Outwork.

Nature of work	No. of outworkers from returns submitted	Contraventions
Making wearing apparel	3	Nil
Totals	3	Nil

SECTION E.

Housing.

Total number of new houses erected during the year.			82
(1)	By the Council	... ..	36
(2)	By other Local Authorities	... ..	Nil
(3)	By other bodies or persons (including 26 by Air Ministry)	... ..	46
(1) Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.			
(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	... ..	132
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	... ..	156
(2) Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.			
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	... ..	91
(3) Action under Statutory Powers during the year.			
(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936		Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	2
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—		
(a)	By Owners	... ..	2
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	... ..	Nil
(c)	Proceeding under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	10
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	10
(3)	Number of dwelling houses subject to Undertakings or Closing Orders	...	3
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	... ..	Nil
(e)	Proceedings under Sections 25 and 26	...	Nil

(4) Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.

(a)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	3
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	32
(b)		Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	Nil

(5) Housing Act, 1949.

(a)	Number of applications for grants received	...	147
(b)	Number of grants made	...	104
(c)	Number of applications for grants made by Local Authority	...	Nil

(6) Movable Dwellings, Tents, Caravans, etc.

(a)	Number of Site Licences	...	3
(b)	Number of individual Licences	...	23
(c)	Total number of caravans permitted under licences	...	158
(d)	Number of inspections during the year :—		
	(1) Sites	...	17
	(2) Dwellings	...	46
(e)	Number of contraventions remedied	...	7

Housing.

In common with all Authorities in the country, other than County Councils, the Council was required during the year to submit to the Ministry, under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, a return showing (1) the estimated number of unfit dwellings in the area (2) the period considered necessary to secure their demolition and (3) the action proposed in the first five years. The number of unfit dwellings, based on the category V list found by the Housing Survey completed in 1948, was returned as 800, and the Council undertook to demolish 150 in the first five years. The relationship of remedy to problem is not so much out of step with reality as may appear at first glance because the Council gave earnest consideration to the whole problem before deciding to deal with the more acute half of the liability at as practical a rate as the building potential and the circumstances of the district indicated. As a start, programmes were drawn up for attacking the more notorious cells of bad property in certain villages, in addition to the representation of individually unfit and derelict dwellings throughout the district as current measures when the opportunities were propitious.

One had many glimpses of the difficulties ahead from the angle of the official, both regarding the general assessment of the

position and the application of the remedy. Unlike an urban district, where the unfit houses are more usually found in compact groups conveniently arranged for clearance areas, we find in the wide spaces of the rural district that even in most villages the problem cases are dotted here and there to defy an ordered form of solution. In consequence, it seemed most of the property requiring attention would have to be dealt with as individual demolitions rather than by clearance procedure. It also seemed apparent that "patching" measures would be impracticable owing to the uniformly low standard of the group buildings which could be considered from that angle. When going round the smaller villages with the object of selecting a limited number of houses for demolition to fit in with the intended building programme, it was surprising to learn how very few of the tenants of these substandard dwellings had applied for Council houses, or who showed any enthusiasm at the prospects of being re-housed, because of the alleged difficulty of paying the increased rental. This attitude, appearing in many cases to represent a sense of values which put the enjoyment of so many things before healthy living accommodation, helped the selection process not at all.

During the year, the building of 36 Council houses was completed, as well as 20 undertaken by private firms. These brought the district totals in the post war period to 339 Council and 165 private house erections. Without doubt, the proudest and most outstanding achievement was the continued progress made by the Improvement Grant schemes towards the preservation and improvement of property that would otherwise quickly swell the demolition lists. The surveyor submitted 132 formal applications for grants which were approved by the Council, and schemes were completed in respect of 104 dwellings, involving grants totalling £16,682. The housing categories affected by the schemes completed were as follows :—In categories II, III, IV., V, and unclassified, the numbers respectively were 26, 15, 28, 3 and 32.

On the other side, official representations were made in respect of 19 houses for demolition or closure, which mainly affected derelict, vacant, or houses about to become vacant, with the idea of preventing their re-occupation as living quarters. Ten of the number were unoccupied at the time of being represented. In other borderline cases the position was discussed informally with the owners, who in four instances undertook to carry out repairs which made the houses reasonably fit without prejudice to any future official action. The actual number of demolitions carried out during the year was 10.

SECTION P.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The most outstanding incident of the year was concerned with the issue, towards the end of the year, of the Food Hygiene Regulations, which have gone a long way to clarify the generalities and obscurities of previous legislative measures dealing with the hygiene of food. Although the Regulations did not become operative until 1956, the preliminary preparations connected with their application to the various types of food trades in the district were given the necessary attention, including the circulation of copies of the new measures to the individual traders. These regulations should do much to make the trade and public more conscious of the importance of clean and safe food, and we look forward to the usual co-operation from traders to help in realising the aim of the legislation, which is directed to the control of infections spread by food.

Food Premises.

There was no change in the list of food premises from the previous year, and routine supervision was carried out according to the following information :—

Type	Inspections	Defects found	Defects remedied
Bakehouses	42	6	9
Meat shops	19	2	2
Other shops, cafes, etc.	47	5	5

No food was condemned other than 6 lbs. of tinned ox. tongue.

Slaughter Houses.

The three premises licensed for slaughtering operated during the year without any major complaints.

Meat inspection was done by the Council's staff, with whom the owners of the slaughterhouses co-operated most satisfactorily. Details of the inspections and results are given below.

Unsound Food.
Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excl'ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	100	29	—	211	92
Number inspected	100	29	—	211	92
(a) All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	2	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	1	—	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	4%	3.4%	—	1.5%	1.1
(b) Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	3	—	—	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2%	10.3%	—	—	10.8%

Milk.

According to information, the register of distributors consisted of the following retail numbers :—

Sterilized	31
Pasteurized	20
T.T. Raw	16
Non designated	24

The producer retailers of non-designated milk were reduced by 6 compared with the previous year, and one would welcome the time when this type of supply would cease to be retailed in the district. The result of the samples examined regarding the hygienic standard, as based on the methylene blue test, are shown below. As in previous years, copies of the results were sent to the County Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who was responsible for the follow up investigations.

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
T .T. (Raw)	4	1
Non-designated	31	6

As the result of the biological examinations of 64 samples in connexion with the County scheme, two samples were found positive for tubercle and 14 were positive for brucella abortus. In all cases the County Authority make the necessary animal investigation, and we inquired into the disposal of the milk supply when the biological tests proved positive. The County Council kept me fully informed of the results of investigation.

Ice Cream.

The manufacturers registered, and the premises licensed for sale, remained at 3 and 68 respectively, about the same as the previous year. The results of sample testing shown below and the reports from the inspectors confirmed that this trade continued to be reliably conducted. The sample examinations were mostly incidental to visits to the particular shops for other reasons, though the result of the examinations of the ice cream provided a fair index of the general standard of hygiene obtaining on the premises.

	Grades				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Producers ex District	69	3	1	—	= 73
Producers in District	2	—	—	—	= 2
Totals	71	3	1	—	= 75

